IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for configuring a storage area network, the method comprising the steps of:

collecting operating system data for a server, wherein the server is connected to a storage area network;

comparing operating system data for the server to operating system data of the storage area network to identify an operating system type of the server and to select a configuration file from a list of configuration files based on the operating system type, wherein the configuration file contains configuration information for the storage area network;

configuring an operating system of the server based on the ~~comparison~~ operating system type and the configuration information, wherein the server operating system is automatically configured to allow the server to access the storage area network.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a server configuration file identifier, wherein the server configuration file identifier corresponds to a server configuration file.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the server configuration file comprises at least one record, wherein the record comprises at least one of an internet protocol address and an operating system ~~file~~ type of a server.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein receiving the server configuration file identifier is at least one of reading the server configuration file identifier from the server configuration file and prompting for the server configuration file identifier.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein allowing the server to access the storage area network comprises allowing the server to access at least one of a disk storage device and a tape storage device within the storage area network.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein comparing operating system data for the server to operating system data of the storage area network identifies an operating system as being at least one of a Solaris™ operating system, an AIX™ operating system, and a Windows NT™ operating system.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
appending an information message to a server configuration file, wherein the information message contains details of the server operating system configuration.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
conveying an error message, wherein the error message indicates that the connected server operating system is not supported by the storage area network.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein conveying the error message is by at least one of printing the error message and visually displaying the error message.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
configuring an operating system of a client, wherein the client is connected to the server to allow the client to access the storage area network.

11.   (Currently Amended) A data processing system for configuring a storage area network, the data processing system comprising:
collecting means for collecting operating system data for a server, wherein the server is connected to a storage area network;
comparing means for comparing operating system data for the server to operating system data of the storage area network to identify an operating system type of the server and to select a configuration file from a list of configuration files based on the operating system type, wherein the configuration file contains configuration information for the storage area network; and
configuring means for configuring an operating system of the server based on the comparison operating system type and the configuration information, wherein the server

operating system is automatically configured to allow the server to access the storage area network.

12.   (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising:
       receiving means for receiving a server configuration file identifier, wherein the server configuration file identifier corresponds to a server configuration file.

13.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the server configuration file comprises at least one record, wherein the record comprises at least one of an internet protocol address and an operating system file type of a server.

14.   (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein receiving the server configuration file identifier is at least one of reading the server configuration file identifier from the server configuration file and prompting for the server configuration file identifier.

15.   (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein allowing the server to access the storage area network comprises allowing the server to access at least one of a disk storage device and a tape storage device within the storage area network.

16.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein comparing operating system data for the server to operating system data of the storage area network identifies an operating system as being at least one of a Solaris™ operating system, an AIX™ operating system, and a Windows NT™ operating system.

17.   (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising:
       appending means for appending an information message to a server configuration file, wherein the information message contains details of the server operating system configuration.

18.   (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising:

conveying means for conveying an error message, wherein the error message indicates that the connected server operating system is not supported by the storage area network.

19.   (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein conveying the error message is by at least one of printing the error message and visually displaying the error message.

20.   (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising:

configuring means for configuring an operating system of a client, wherein the client is connected to the server to allow the client to access the storage area network.

21.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product for configuring a storage area network, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for collecting operating system data for a server, wherein the server is connected to a storage area network;

second instructions for comparing operating system data for the server to operating system data of the storage area network to identify an operating system type of the server and to select a configuration file from a list of configuration files based on the operating system type, wherein the configuration file contains configuration information for the storage area network; and

third instructions for configuring an operating system of the server based on the ~~comparison~~ operating system type and the configuration information, wherein the server operating system is automatically configured to allow the server to access the storage area network.

22.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising:

fourth instructions for receiving a server configuration file identifier, wherein the server configuration file identifier corresponds to a server configuration file.

23.   (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 22, wherein the server configuration file comprises at least one record, wherein the record comprises at least one of an internet protocol address and an operating system file type of a server.

24.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 22, wherein receiving the server configuration file identifier is at least one of reading the server configuration file identifier from the server configuration file and prompting for the server configuration file identifier.

25.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein allowing the server to access the storage area network comprises allowing the server to access at least one of a disk storage device and a tape storage device within the storage area network.

26.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein comparing operating system data for the server to operating system data of the storage area network identifies an operating system as being at least one of a Solaris™ operating system, an AIX™ operating system, and a Windows NT™ operating system.

27.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising:
        fifth instructions for appending an information message to a configuration file, wherein the information message contains details of the server operating system configuration.

28.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising:
        sixth instructions for conveying an error message, wherein the error message indicates that the connected server operating system is not supported by the storage area network.

29.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 28, wherein conveying the error message is by at least one of printing the error message and visually displaying the error message.

30. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising:

seventh instructions for configuring an operating system of a client, wherein the client is connected to the server to allow the client to access the storage area network.

31. (Canceled)